Organisation, Palam, New Delhi about alleged irregularities, malpractices and corruption in Rajen Babu T.B. Hospital, G.T.B. Nagar, Delhi ;

(b) whether any Member of Parliament had represented the matter to the Minister ;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in Nav Bharat Times, New Delhi dated 1st April, 1992 under the caption "No Medicines in T.B. Hospital" ;

(d) if so, reaction of Government thereto ; and

(e) what steps are being taken to set right the things in Rajen Babu T.B. Hospital ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Detailed information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Old Data on Nutritional Status

857. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the NIN, Hyderabad continues to use old data on nutritional status of various regions as in the November, 1991 issue of their Nutrition News released in April, 1992 which appears to have very little relevance to the ground realities ; and

(b) whether Government would streamline our R and D structure and ensure that they take up meaningful need based projects and timely publication including regular DD programmes for mass communication of upto date research on the lines of BBC programmes etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The old datas used by the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad in the November, 1991 issue of Nutrition News, were for comparison of growth status of Nicobarese to their rural counterparts on the mainland.

(b) The Research and Development (R&D) activities in the Institutes under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) are undertaken with the guidance of the Scientific Advisory Committees and the Scientific Advisory Groups. The NIN has co-ordination with Programme Advisory Committee for Family Welfare Programme of the All India Radio, Hyderabad and Door Darshan Kendra, Hyderabad for broadcasts and telecasts on nutrition and health topics. The Institute also brings out publications like Nutrition (English), Postan (Hindi), Poshana (Telugu) and Nutrition news regularly.

Use of Green Algae

858. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the NIN, Hyderabad is now advocating use of blue green algae Spirulina as a source of vitamin 'A' ;

(b) whether as per NIN it would be difficult to administer more than 162 grams of this product in food daily and if so, whether NIN would use and recommend compressed tablets as in case of yeast etc. ; and

(c) whether this new vitamin 'A' product has been tested and or used anywhere else in the world and if so, whether it would be faster and cheaper to import such technology rather wait for our archaic and slow moving R and D infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Studies conducted by the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad, in rats and children have indicated that freshly harvested spray-dried Spirulina is a good source of Vitamin 'A'.

(b) National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad has recommended consumption of only 1-2 gm. of Spirulina of food daily which will provide 2 mgm. of Beta Carotene.

(c) Use of Spirulina as rich source of Vitamin 'A' has not been reported by any country as per information available with Indian Council of Medical Research and this Ministry. The technology for producing Spirulina on large scale is available in India and there is no need to import this technology from outside the country.

Issuance of Employment Notices

859. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the Supreme Court judgement of 21st August, 1990, wherein it has been held that an employment notice that fails to notify the reservation of posts subject-wise and mentions only the total number of reserved posts without indicating the particular posts so reserved subject-wise is bad in law ;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and the PGIMER, Chandigarh have been allowed to continue with the illegal practice of issuing employment notices and making arbitrary appointments without showing the specific reserved vacancies subject/speciality-wise ; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to cancel all the recent advertisements for faculty and resident doctors of these two institutions to set things as per the Supreme Court Judgement ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Both AIIMS and PGIMER are autonomous institutions created by Acts of Parliament. The Institutes follow the decision of their respective Governing/ Institute Bodies. AIIMS Institute Body has decided that the reservation would be against the total number of vacancies of Lecturer/Asstt. Professors without reference speciality/department as is followed by PGIMER, Chandigarh. This decision while obviating the persistent difficulty in filling up the reserved posts of Lecturer/Asstt. Professors in certain disciplines also provided for a better overall representation to the SC/ST. The Supreme Court judgement is not strictly applicable to the appointments/reservations made by AIIMS and PGIMER, Chandigarh.

Pesticides Boon or Bane

860. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report entitled "Pesticides : Boon or Bane" published in the Indian Express (Bombay) of 19th February, 1992 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in 70 per cent cases of the tested samples of bottled milk in Maharashtra, the amount of DDT and Dieldrin was 4.8 to 6.3 ppm and 1.9 to 6.3 ppm respectively when the permissible limit in milk for both is 0.66 ppm ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the average level of Dieldrin residue in the milk sold by vendors in Bombay was found to be as high as 9.6 ppm ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the levels of DDT and BHC residues in butter were on an average of 3.6 and 2.6 ppm respectively whereas tolerance limit is 1.25 ppm ; and

(e) if answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government have taken in this regard and also to make the people aware of it ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.